

Amendments to the Abstract

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

~~A method for controlling access to a system of finite resources with excess demand employs a two stage admission process. Subscribers are first admitted based on an initial bid price and resource availability. The market price is determined by the highest bid price among the rejected arrivals in the current batch. Admitted subscribers are then given the option to secure continued access to the resource by accepting a fee based reservation. The fee for the reservation is determined in a manner which is fair to the reserving subscriber, as well as all other subscribers, in that the reservation fee is priced to provide access at a cost which prevents arbitraging opportunities. If the current market price exceeds a non reserved subscriber=s bid price, that non reserved subscriber is displaced. If the current market price exceeds a reserved subscriber=s bid price, that reserved subscriber=s reservation is activated and access to the resource continues. In the case of a communications system having a finite number of access lines, the reservation fee is based on the bid price from the subscriber and the duration of the requested reservation.~~

A network computer server system for controlling a plurality of network access lines to provide subscriber access to a computer network comprising an access line interface for partitioning the plurality of network access lines as first and second stage lines, including a processor encoded with instructions. The instructions include determining an available number of second stage lines; queuing arriving subscribers bidding for network access in the first stage lines; determining a spot price of the resource based on at least one arrival subscriber not admitted to the second stage lines; determining a reservation fee for secured access to the network; determining whether a subscriber has accepted or rejected the reservation fee; controlling the access line interface to disconnect from the network non-reserved subscribers whose bid prices are below the spot price; and activating a reservation of reserved subscribers whose bid price is below the spot price.